Losses of clients by AI due to bilateral agreements.

1099. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that during last five years, Government have signed a large number of bilateral agreements with over 11 foreign carriers permitting them not only to operate lucrative destination in India but also to increase routes and frequencies;

(b) whether as a result of this AI lost a large percentage of its traditional clientele; and

(c) what is Government strategy to rectify this?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) to (c) 25 bilateral Air Services Agreements have been initialled/signed by India with other countries from 1.1.91. The traffic rights exchanged under these Agreements are on the basis of reciprocity and equality of benefit to the designated airlines of both sides.

Proposal to Improve the Functioning of Thiruvananthapuram Doordarshan Centre

1100. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to improve the functioning of Thiruvananthapuram Doordarshan Kendra;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government received any proposal for improvement of Studio Camera from the said Kendra; and

(d) if so, what action has been taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) and (b) Modernisation/ augmentation of technical facilities at the existing Doordarshan Centres in the country is a continuous process. As a step in this direction, recently, a number of State-of-the-Art equipment have been provided to Doordarshan Kendra, Thiruvananthapuram to improve its functioning.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. With a view to replace the existing Studio cameras at Doordarshan Kendra (DDK), Thiruvananthapuram, a scheme is being proposed for inclusion as a part of 9th Plan proposals of Doordarshan.

Recovery of Wrongly Made Bonus Payments

1101. DR. RANBIR SINGH:
SHRI RAM NATH KOVIND:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether instructions have been issued for recovery of bonus payment made wrongly to group B Central employees;

(b) if so, the details thereof with amount recovered so far;

(c) whether Government propose to take action against officials responsible for such wrong payments;

(d) whether instructions have been issued for recovery of bonus payment wrongly made to Assistant category employees with pay scale of Rs. 1640—2900 (RS) working in zonal Railways as well as in Ministry Office;

(e) if so, the details thereof with amount recovered so far.

(f) whether Government propose to take action against officials responsible for such wrong payment; and

(g) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) Orders were issued on 5th November, 1996 removing eligibility ceiling for grant of ad-hoc bonus to all Group C and D

employees of the Central Government for 1995-96. Group B employees are not covered under these orders. If any Ministry or Department have paid the bonus wrongly to Group B employees. It is for them to make recoveries and take suitable action against responsible persons. For this no specific instructions are considered necessary.

(d) to (g) The employees working in the Ministry of Railways in the scale of Rs. 1640—2900 have been paid Productivity Linked Bonus for the financial year 1995-96. Since the employees of this category in other Central Ministries have not been paid adhoc bonus. This issue of recovery of Bonus from aforesaid staff of this Ministry is being considered by the Railways.

Selection of Judges from Professional Advocates

1102. SHRI R. MARGABANDU: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that judges are selected from Professional Advocates;

(b) whether Bar Council of India and Bar Councils of States are being consulted before recommending the names by the concerned High Courts; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) As per provisions of Articles 217(2) of the Constitution a person who has held Judicial Office in the Territory of India or has been an Advocate of a High Court for at least 10 year is eligible for appointment as a Judge of the High Court.

(b) and (c) Appointment of Judges of the High Courts are made in consultation with the constitutional authorities pescribed in Article 217(1) of the Constitution of India which does not provide for consultation with the Bar Council of India and Bar Councils of States.

Amount Transferred as NPA in Punjab & Sind Bank, Indian Bank and Andhra Bank

1103. SHRI PARAG CHALIHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases and amount involved which have been transferred as Non-performance Accounts by Punjab and Sind Bank, Indian Bank and Andhra Bank during 1993-94, 1994-95, 1995-96 bank-wise and year-wise;

(b) the number out of them which exceed Rs. 25 lakh and were sanctioned during the above years and have become NPA bank-wise and year-wise;

(c) whether any violation of Reserve Bank of India guidelines in the above cases have been detected; if so, whether responsibility for the violations has been fixed with names of the officers involved; and

(d) the action taken/proposed to be taken against the guilty, bank-wise?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) Reserve bank of India (RBI) has reported that non-performing assets (NPAS) of Andhra Bank, Punjab & Sind Bank and Indian Bank are as under:—